

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of scheduling use of a resource, the method comprising:
2 receiving a first scheduling request for a resource, the first scheduling request
3 specifying that the resource is to be scheduled for a requested amount of time sometime
4 within a requested time period, the requested amount of time being less than a maximum
5 time amount that the resource is available during the requested time period;
6 receiving a second scheduling request for the resource that refines the first scheduling
7 request, the second scheduling request specifying that a portion of the requested amount of
8 time is to be scheduled in a specific time slot within the requested time period;
9 scheduling in an electronic schedule the portion of the requested amount of time in
10 the specific time slot; and
11 scheduling in the electronic schedule a remaining portion of the requested amount of
12 time within the requested time period except within the specific time slot.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a person that provides a service requested
2 by the first scheduling request.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first scheduling request specifies that the person is to
2 be scheduled for a predetermined number of hours within the requested time period that
3 includes a specific date range.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second scheduling request refines the first scheduling
2 request by requesting that a portion of the predetermined number of hours from the first
3 scheduling request is to be scheduled for the specific time slot on a specific date within
4 the date range.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first scheduling request specifies that the resource is
2 to be scheduled for a predetermined number of hours within the requested time period
3 that includes a specific date range.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the second scheduling request refines the first scheduling
2 request by requesting that a portion of the predetermined number of hours from the first
3 scheduling request is to be scheduled for the specific time slot on a specific date within
4 the date range.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling in the electronic schedule is done to
2 determine a utilization of the resource.

1 8. A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information carrier, the computer
2 program product including instructions that when executed cause a processor to perform
3 operations comprising:

4 receive a first scheduling request for a resource, the first scheduling request
5 specifying that the resource is to be scheduled for a requested amount of time sometime
6 within a requested time period, the requested amount of time being less than a maximum
7 time amount that the resource is available during the requested time period;

8 receive a second scheduling request for the resource that refines the first scheduling
9 request, the second scheduling request specifying that a portion of the requested amount of
10 time is to be scheduled in a specific time slot within the requested time period;

11 schedule in an electronic schedule the portion of the requested amount of time in the
12 specific time slot; and

13 schedule in the electronic schedule a remaining portion of the requested amount of
14 time within the requested time period except within the specific time.

1 9. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the executable instructions, when
2 executed, further cause the resource planning application to receive all time slots in
3 which the resource is available within the requested time period.